

**WORK SESSION MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**

STATE OF KANSAS        )  
  ) SS  
CITY OF KANSAS CITY    )

The Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas (aka BPU, We, Us, Our) met in Work Session on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 5:00 PM. The following Board Members were present: Thomas Groneman, President; David Haley, Vice President; Stevie A. Wakes Sr., Secretary; Mary Gonzales, Rose Mulvany Henry and Brett Parker.

Also present: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Jeremy Ash, Chief Operating Officer; Abbey Frye, Chief Administrative Officer; Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Jerin Purtee, Executive Director Electric Supply; Darrin McNew, Executive Director Electric Operations; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; Andrew Ferris, Director Financial Planning; Darrick Spears, Superintendent Distribution- Overhead; and Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager.

A video of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities and can be found on the BPU website, [www.bpu.com](http://www.bpu.com).

Mr. Groneman called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Roll call was taken. All members were present, except for Mr. Parker, who arrived at 5:30 PM, and Mr. Haley, who arrived at 5:33 PM.

**Item #3 –Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the amended Agenda by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Mr. Wakes, and unanimously carried.

A motion was made to amend the amended Agenda to add a section for Board/GM Comments by Ms. Gonzales, seconded by Mulvany Henry, and unanimously carried.

**Item #4 –Board Member & General Manager Comments**

Ms. Mulvany Henry spoke about the Unified Government (UG) Standing Committee - Public Works meeting she attended, nothing on the agenda impacted BPU.

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Mr. Wakes attended the UG Economic Development & Finance Standing Committee meeting and reported a development that was discussed and how it would result in infrastructure improvements for BPU.

Mr. Johnson gave an update on a meeting he attended with Mr. Groneman and Mayor Garner regarding progress of the Homefield project. He also spoke about attending the American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally and items that were presented and discussed on behalf of BPU.

Mr. Jeremy Ash, Chief Operating Officer, responded to questions and comments from the Board regarding Homefield.

**Item #5 – Pole Replacement Program / SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvements**

Mr. Darrick Spears, Superintendent Distribution- Overhead, gave an update on the pole inspection program, which included, the process of inspecting and preserving wood poles, the number of poles projected to be replaced in 2024 and the phases of replacement. (See attached PowerPoint.)

Mr. Darrin McNew, Executive Director Electric Operations, updated the Board on the proposed grid improvement project BPU would be working on in southeast Wyandotte County. This included both distribution and transmission upgrades that would support the current KU Medical Center, a newly proposed KU facility and the surrounding community.

Mr. Spears, Mr. Ash, Mr. McNew, and Mr. Johnson responded to questions and comments from the Board regarding each presentation.

**Item #6 – Federal / State Funding Project Update**

Mr. Andrew Ferris, Director Financial Planning, gave an update on the grants BPU was seeking including those that are in progress or under review, consideration of upcoming grants and additional assistance available to the community.

Mr. Ferris and Mr. Johnson responded to questions and comments from the Board.

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**Item #7 – Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the Work Session at 6:02 PM by Ms. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. Wakes and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President



# Kansas City Board of Public Utilities

Electric Operations  
March 6, 2024

- Pole Inspection & Replacement Program
- SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement Project

# Pole Inspection Program

- Inspect all wood poles on the system
- 10 year inspection cycle, currently in fourth year
- Inspect overall pole condition and structural integrity
- Improve system reliability and public safety
- Extend the life of existing wood poles

# Pole Inspection Program

- Visual Inspection
- Excavation
- Sounding
- Boring
- Wood Preservative Treatment

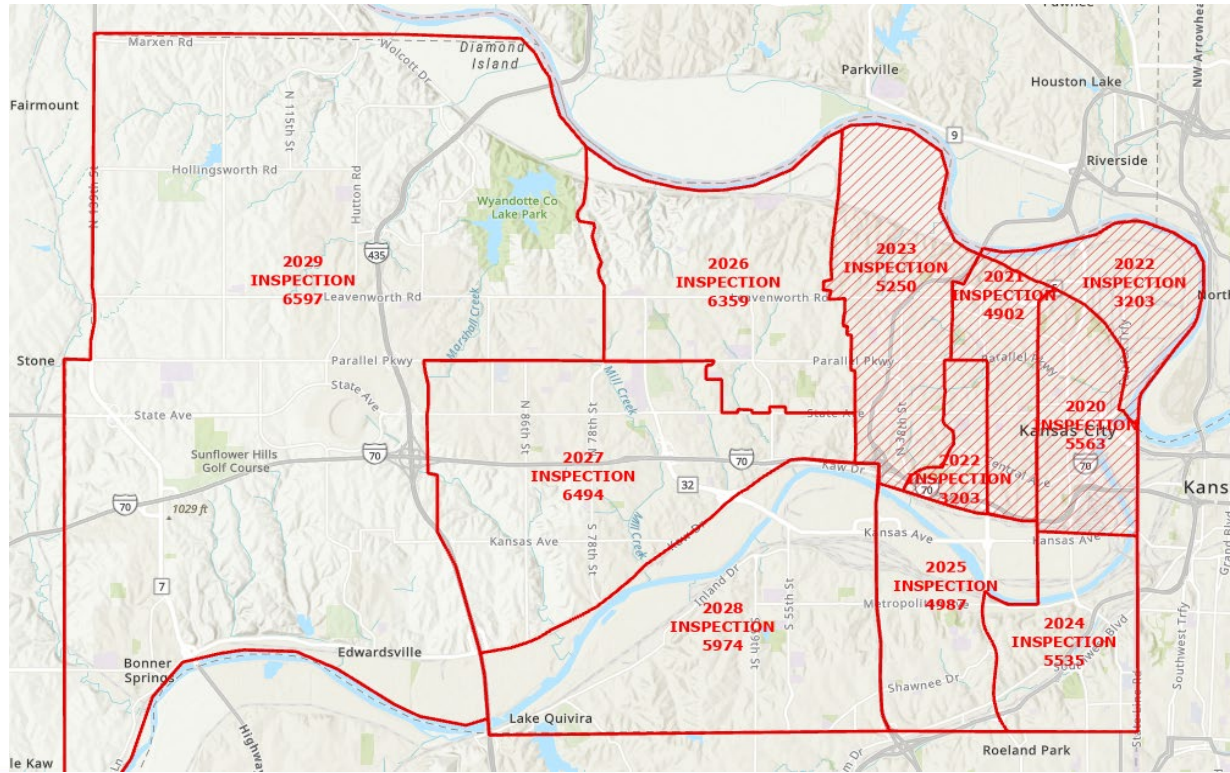


# Pole Inspection Program

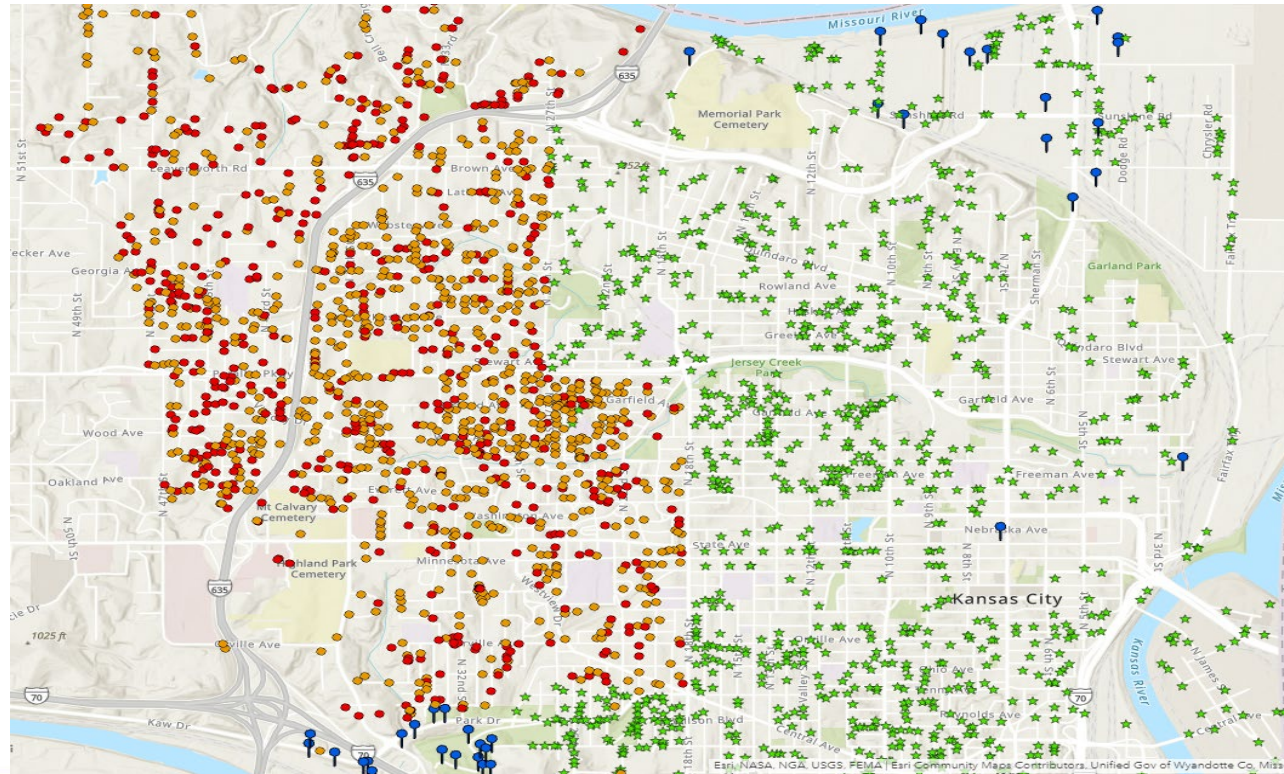
- Total Number of Poles: 57,464
- Number of Poles Inspected: 18,918
- Number of Poles Replaced: 1,200
- Number of Poles Scheduled for Replacement: 1,572



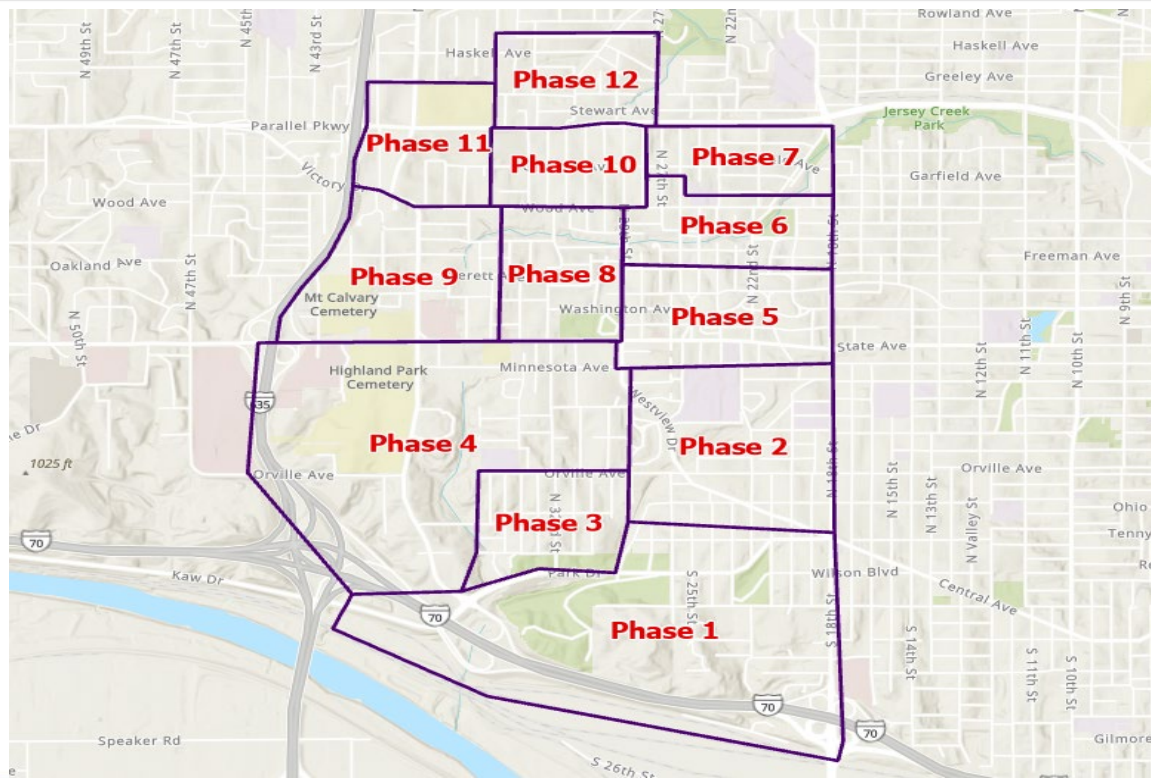
# Pole Inspection Program



# Pole Inspection Program



# Pole Inspection Program



# Questions?



# SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement

- Transmission and distribution system improvements for Southeastern Wyandotte County and KU Medical Center
- Improve transmission system reliability and resiliency
- Ensure reliability of service to KU Medical Center facilities
- Provide adequate capacity for expansion of KU Med campus



# SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement

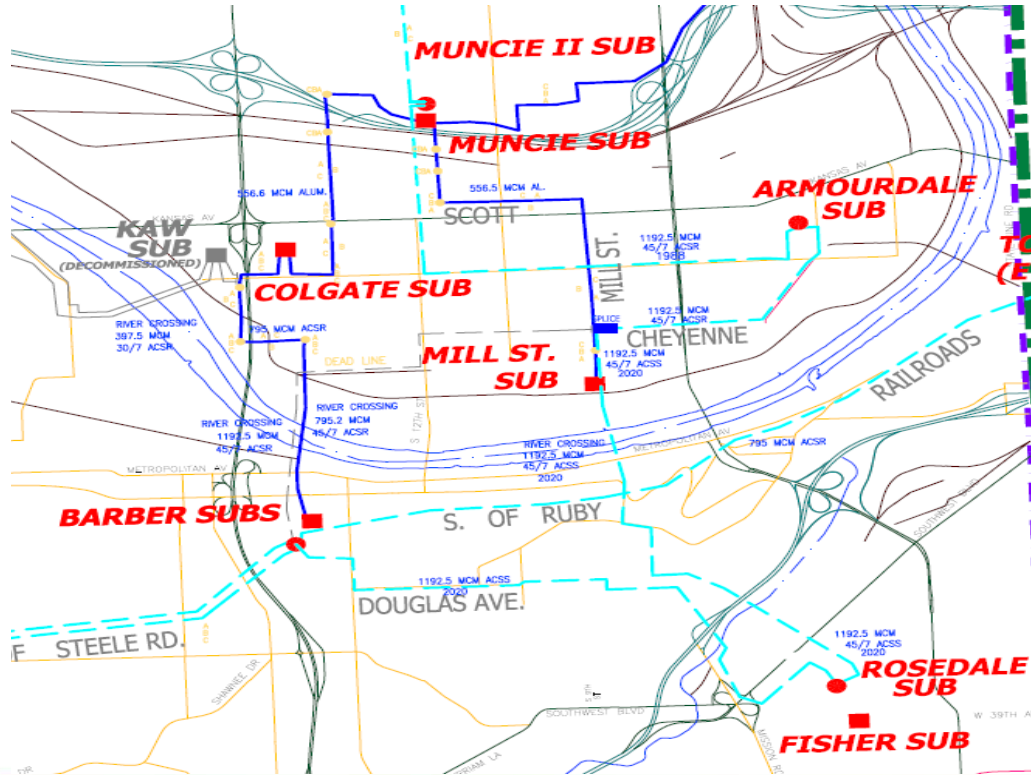
- Distribution portion of the project is focused on KU Medical Center
- Construct three new feeders from Rosedale Substation
- Two feeders will provide redundancy to existing KU Hospital
- One feeder will be for proposed expansion and new facilities



# SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement

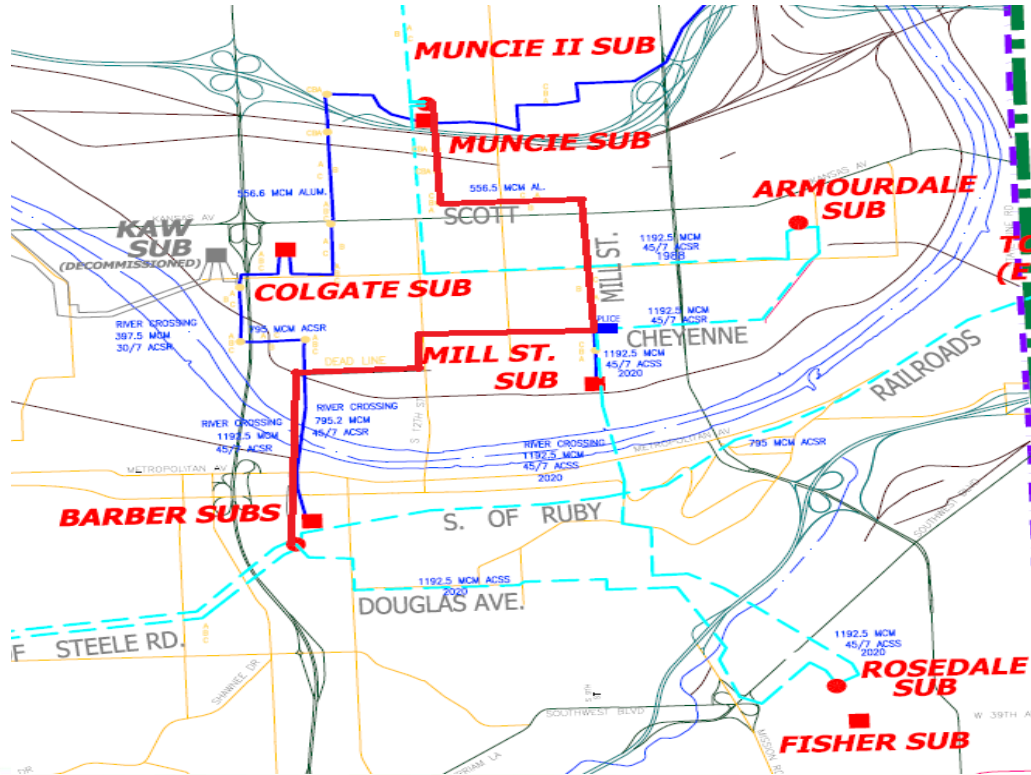
- Transmission portion of the project is for the construction of Barber to Muncie 161kV transmission line
- Create a transmission loop between five BPU substations and improve reliability of transmission system in this area
- Reconfigure 1.74 miles of existing 161kV line and rebuild 1.29 miles of 69kV line to 161kV

# SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement





# SE Wyandotte County Grid Improvement



# Questions?



# BPU Grant Update

March, 2024

# GRANT UPDATE

Several Grants are also currently in process or under review.

- 40101(d) - Grid Resiliency - KCC / DOE
  - Fairfax project - Installation of distribution monitoring equipment to improve the speed at which issues can be located and isolated
  - Downtown project - Upgrading existing underground switchgear to controls to a microprocessor relay capable of multidirectional network protection, control and automation
  - Recently received notification that these projects will not receive funding during the 1<sup>st</sup> round of funding.
  - Hope to learn more about what types of projects, funding level requests, etc. were selected over the next several months to determine if these projects or other projects would be more likely to receive funding in future rounds. We are currently expecting a total of four rounds of funding over the next few years.

- CPRG - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - EPA
  - Community solar project where 80% of the proceeds from the value of the solar produced will be returned to low income households through on-bill credits
  - Goal of the project is to lower GHG emissions locally while improving resiliency and adding long-term cost mitigation to low income households
  - BPU's proposal was included in the state's PCAP / plan. Also have held conversations with MARC to discuss most advantageous application / proposal.

- Solar For All - KHRC / EPA
  - Awaiting award to the State prior to formal application for sub-recipient awards
  - Community solar project where 80% of the proceeds from the value of the solar produced will be returned to low income households through on-bill credits
  - Working closely with UG staff to ensure a unified voice
  - Spoke to KHRC recently to continue to push for community solar, equitable funding, and a mechanism to access potential program participants.

# GRANT UPDATE

- RMUC - Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity - APPA / DOE
  - Cybersecurity training
  - Load Balancers for primary and back-up control center
  - Intrusion and Endpoint protection
  - Data Loss Prevention
  - APPA is still waiting for a determination from the DOE so no update at this time.

## C-SITE - Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy - DOE

- Program Goals
  - Deliver direct local community benefits of clean energy
  - Spark additional investments in communities
  - Advance community-identified energy priorities
  - Build capacity and partnerships in local governments
  - Only \$18 million total available with 5 - 20 awards nationally with award sizes between \$900,000 - \$3,600,000
  - Posted 2/27/24 so still exploring opportunity



# ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- Other Grants BPU is actively involved with
  - EECBG - Unified Government - Bus and Fleet electrification
  - Clean School Bus - UG / KCKCC / KCKPS - Bus electrification
  - NEVI - Current and Potential Customers - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

# ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- There are numerous programs and agencies providing assistance and weatherization and we encourage all customers to explore the various programs:
  - Utility Assistance (BPU Funded)
  - Hardship Assistance (BPU Funded)
  - Agency Assistance
  - LIEAP
  - K-WAP
  - ECKAN
  - Utility Rebate Program
  - Homestead
  - HOMES and HEERA (IRA Funding coming soon)

# QUESTIONS